AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (Previously Presented) An analytical device comprising a porous material that permits liquid to migrate therein, the device comprising in the migration direction:

(i) a first zone onto which a sample suspected of including an analyte to be assayed can be applied,

(ii) a second zone comprising a non-immobilised molecule capable of specifically binding to the analyte, said non-immobilised molecule including a detectable label,

(iii) a third zone capable of retarding the rate of migration of the sample and the non-immobilised molecule, and

(iv) a fourth zone comprising in at least a part of the fourth zone the same type of analyte as the one to be assayed or an analogue thereof in an immobilised state, which is capable of specifically binding to the non-immobilised molecule.

2. (Original) A device according to claim 1 wherein the first zone and the second zone are overlapping.

3. (Original) A device according to any of the preceding claims wherein the second zone and the third zone are overlapping.

4. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the third zone and the fourth zone are overlapping.

5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the device comprises a fifth zone into which a sample not detained during migration may be adsorbed.

6. (Original) A device according to claim 5 wherein the fourth zone and the fifth zone are overlapping.

7. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the second zone comprises a non-immobilised second molecule capable of binding to a compound different from the analyte to be assayed and incapable of specifically binding to the analyte to be assayed, said second molecule provided with a detectable label.

8. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 7 wherein the fourth zone includes, in at least a part of the fourth zone in an immobilised state a compound different from the analyte to be assayed and capable of binding the non-immobilised second molecule, said compound incapable of binding specifically to the non-immobilised molecule capable of specifically binding to the analyte.

9. (Previously Presented) A device according claim 1 wherein the non-immobilised molecule in the second zone is selected from the group consisting of antibodies, receptors and a combination thereof.

10. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 5 wherein the first zone, the second zone, the third zone, the fourth zone and the fifth zone is comprised of a porous material, selected from the group consisting of a nitrocellulose membrane, cellulose, a polymer, glass fibre, woven fibres, non-woven fibres and a chromatographic gel membrane, providing that each of the first zone, the second zone, the third zone, the fourth zone or the fifth zone is comprised of the same or different porous material as at least one of the remaining zones.

11. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein the average pore size of the porous material is in the range of 10-10,000 nm.

12. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein the capacity of the porous material to bind proteins is in the range of 1-400 $\mu g/cm^2$.

13. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein the capillary flow-rate of the porous material is in the range of 50-250 sec/4 cm.

14. (Previously Presented) A device according claim 1 wherein the analyte or analogue is immobilised to the fourth zone through a spacer molecule.

15. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 14 wherein the spacer molecule includes a peptide, a polypeptide or a protein.

16. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 14 wherein the spacer molecule is bovine serum albumin.

17. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 15 wherein the spacer molecule and the analyte or analogue being immobilised to the fourth zone are coupled using CMO and/or HMS.

18. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the capability of retarding the sample and the non-immobilised molecule of the third zone is provided by changing the length of the porous material used in the third zone, changing the porosity of the porous material, adding at least one substance or a combination thereof.

19. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 18 wherein the sample and the non-immobilised molecule is retarded by changing the length of the third zone relative to the length of the first, second and fourth zones.

20. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the third zone comprises 1-99% of the porous material used in the first zone, second zone, third zone and fourth zone.

21. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the device further comprises a calibration zone.

22. (Original) A device according to claim 21 wherein the calibration zone is located downstream from the fourth zone and upstream from the fifth zone.

23. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 20 wherein the calibration zone has immobilised thereon polyclonal or monoclonal antisera specific for the labeled non-immobilised molecule capable of binding the analyte to be assayed.

24. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 5 wherein at least one of the first zone, the second zone, the third zone, the fourth zone or the fifth zone includes at least one ancillary compound capable of improving the flow of the liquid sample.

25. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the at least one ancillary compound is a liquid.

26. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound decreases non specific binding of the analyte and non specific binding of the non-immobilised molecule.

27. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound provides a substantially consistent and quantitative release of the non-immobilised molecule.

28. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound provides low affinity for protein binding.

29. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound provides low retention of triglyceride rich samples.

30. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound decreases the viscosity of the sample.

31. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 24 wherein the ancillary compound comprises chemical constituents including water, surfactant, salt, acid, base, metals, sugar, proteins or lipid.

32. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein the device comprises a solid support.

33. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1 wherein said device is provided in the form of a dry stick.

34. (Previously Presented) An appliance carrying a multiplicity of the devices according to any of claims 1, 5, 21 or 24.

35. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 34 wherein an automatic, a semi-automatic or a continuous system is provided.

36. (Previously Presented) An appliance according to claim 34 wherein the appliance is a strip.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for assaying an analyte in a sample, said method comprising:

(i) applying the sample suspected of containing an analyte to a first zone,
(ii) permitting the sample to migrate through a second zone ~~incorporating~~ comprising a non-immobilised molecule capable of specifically binding to the analyte, said non-immobilised molecule including a detectable label,
(iii) permitting the sample to migrate through a third zone capable of retarding the rate of migration of the sample and the non-immobilised molecule, and

(iv) permitting the sample to migrate through a fourth zone comprising in at least a part of the fourth zone the same type of analyte as the one to be assayed or an analogue thereof, in an immobilised state, which is capable of specifically binding to the non-immobilised molecule.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37 wherein at least one ancillary compound capable of improving the flow of the sample is added.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein at least one ancillary compound is incorporated into at least one of the first zone, the second zone, the third zone or the fourth zone.

40. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound decreases non-specific binding of the analyte and non-specific binding of the non-immobilised molecule.

41. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound provides a substantially consistent and quantitative release of the non-immobilised specific binding molecule.

42. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound provides low affinity for protein binding.

43. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound provides low retention of triglyceride rich samples.

44. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound decreases the viscosity of the sample.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 38 wherein the ancillary compound comprises chemical constituents selected from the group consisting of water, surfactant, salt, acid, base, metals, sugar, proteins and lipid.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the analyte to be assayed is a steroid selected from the group consisting of a progestagen, an estrogen and an androgen.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 46 wherein the progestagen to be assayed is progesterone.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 47 wherein the sample to be assayed comprises 0-50 ng/ml of progesterone.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the non-immobilised molecule is selected from the group consisting of antibodies and receptors.

50. (Original) A method according to claim 49 wherein the antibodies are monoclonal antibodies.

51. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 69 wherein the first zone, the second zone, the third zone, the fourth zone and the fifth zone is comprised of a porous material, selected from the group consisting of a nitrocellulose membrane, cellulose, a polymer, glass fibre, woven fibres, non-woven fibres and a chromatographic gel membrane, providing that each of the first zone, the second zone, the second zone, the third zone, the fourth zone, or the fifth zone is comprised of the same or different porous material as at least one of the remaining zones.

52. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the average pore size of the porous material is in the range of 10-10,000 nm.

53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the capacity of the porous material to bind proteins is in the range of 1-400 $\mu g/cm^2$.

54. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the capillary flow-rate of the porous material is in the range of 50-250 sec/4 cm.

55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of dyes, enzymes, fluorescent compounds, chemiluminescent compounds, radioactive labels and metals.

56. (Original) A method according to claim 55 wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of gold, silver, carbon, fluorescent latex beads and dyed latex beads.

57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the assay time is less than 15 min.

58. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 37 wherein the sample to be assayed is a mammalian physiological fluid.

59. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 58, wherein the mammalian physiological fluid to be assayed is selected from the group consisting of milk samples, urinary samples, blood samples and saliva samples.

60. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 58 wherein the mammal is a cow or a human.

61. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37, utilizing a device according to claim 1 or an appliance according to claim 34.

62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the capability of retarding the sample and the non-immobilised molecule of the third zone is provided by changing the length of the porous material used in the third zone, changing the porosity of the porous material, adding at least one substance or a combination thereof.

63. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 62 wherein the sample and the non-immobilised molecule is retarded by changing the length of the third zone relative to the length of the first, second and fourth zones.

64. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the third zone comprises 1-99% of the porous material used in the first zone, the second zone, the third zone and the fourth zone.

65. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 wherein the method further comprises passing the sample to a calibration zone.

66. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 69 wherein the method further comprises passing the sample to a calibration zone located downstream from the fourth zone and upstream from the fifth zone.

67. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 65 wherein the calibration zone has immobilised thereon polyclonal or monoclonal antisera specific for the labeled non-immobilised molecule capable of binding the analyte to be assayed.

68. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 10 wherein the polymer is nylon, polyvinylidene fluoride or latex.

69. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 37 further comprising passing a sample not detained during migration to a fifth zone wherein the sample is absorbed.

70. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 51 wherein the polymer is nylon, polyvinylidene fluoride or latex.